

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 242141

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, AORG (UNDRO), SWEL

SUBJECT: 30TH GA, AGENDA ITEM 63 - POSSIBLE INITIATIVE TO
CREATE AN EXPERTS PANEL TO ADVISE UNDRO

1. WITH THE VERY CONSIDERABLE AUGMENTATION OF THE OPERATING CAPACITY (STAFF, FACILITIES, FUNDING, ETC.) OF THE UN DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE, RESULTING MAINLY FROM GA RESOLUTION 3243(XXIX) INITIATED BY THE U.S., WE HAVE FELT THE NEED TO CREATE AN ADVISORY PANEL OF EXPERTS TO OVERSEE AND ADVISE THE UN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR AND HIS OFFICE IN CARRYING OUT THESE EXPANDED FUNCTIONS, I.E. TO KEEP UNDRO ON THE TRACKS. WE ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF A SMALL PANEL OF ABOUT SEVEN TO NINE EXPERTS DRAWN FROM TRADITIONAL DONOR AND DISASTER-PRONE COUNTRIES (IF POSSIBLE WEIGHTED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAVOR OF THE FORMER), TO BE NAMED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL,

WHICH WOULD MEET WITH UNDRO ANNUALLY FOR ABOUT A WEEK.
WHAT WE WOULD WISH TO AVOID WOULD BE ANY EFFORT TO CONVERT
THIS IDEA INTO SOME SORT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE WHICH MIGHT WELL BALLOON OUT OF PROPORTION INTO
AN OVERSIZED REPRESENTATIVE BODY, LIKELY TO BE POLITICIZED,
AND SERVING MORE AS A COSTLY ENCUMBRANCE THAN A USEFUL
ADVISORY PANEL. (THIS WOULD BE NO IMPEDIMENT TO THE SYG
SELECTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SERVE IN AN EXPERT CAPA-
CITY. A PRIVATE EXPERT, E.G. FROM ICRC, MIGHT ALSO BE
INCLUDED.)

2. THIS IDEA COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A SIMPLE GA RESOLU-
TION INTRODUCED IN COMMITTEE 2 TO "AUTHORIZE THE SECRE-
TARY GENERAL TO APPOINT A PANEL OF SEVEN/NINE) EXPERTS
DRAWN FROM DONOR AND DISASTER-PRONE COUNTIES TO MEET WITH
UNDRO ANNUALLY IN ORDER TO ADVISE THE COORDINATOR ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF HIS OFFICE." (THE NOTION OF OVERSIGHT OR
MONITORING UNDRO'S ACTIVITIES MIGHT BEST BE LEFT UNSTATED
BUT IMPLICIT. ALSO, SUCH MODALITIES AS REPORTING BACK TO
THE SYG COULD BE LEFT TO THE LATTER TO WORK OUT.) THE
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH
COMMITTEE 5, PRESUMABLY WITH THE ADVICE OF THE ACABQ, BUT
THESE SHOULD BE QUITE MODEST.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE VIEWS OF USUN
AND MISSION GENEVA ON THIS IDEA. USUN IS REQUESTED TO
SOUND OUT A FEW KEY DONOR REPS (E.G. MAIN CONTRIBUTORS
TO THE VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR STRENGTHENING UNDRO). IF
REACTIONS ARE FAVORABLE - AND IF WE CAN BE REASONABLY CER-
TAIN THAT WE CAN AVOID THE CONTINGENCY MENTIONED IN PARA
1 ABOVE - WE VISUALIZE THE NEXT STEP AS INFORMING THE SYG
AND BERKOL OF OUR IDEA AND BROADENING NEW YORK CONSULTA-
TIONS TO INCLUDE KEY DISASTER-PRONE COUNTRIES AND OTHER
DONORS, PREPARATORY TO INTRODUCING A DRAFT RESOLUTION,
WITH CO-SPONSORS. KISSINGER

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